

FORM B - BUILDINGAssessor's #
93-5USGS Quad
Whitman

Area

Form #
23

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town **Hanson**

Place

Address **316 West Washington Street**Historic Name **Cushing House**Use: **Present vacant****Original residence**Date **before 1830; c. 1785**Source **maps & White's Houses**Style/Form **Federal/double house**Architect **N/A**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **granite**Wall/Trim **clapboard**Roof **asphalt**Outbuildings **see description**Major Alterations **none**Condition **poor**Moved **no**Acreage **73.53 acres**Setting **rural residential**

Sketch Map

*See continuation sheet*Recorded by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**Organization **Hanson Historical
Commission**Date **April 1996**

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Cushing House at 316 West Washington Street is a threatened, large-scale, two-and-one-half story double house in the Federal style. This type of house was popular in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries throughout New England with the wealthier individuals in a community. The hallmark of this type is the plan of a double pile of rooms opening off a central through passage. The house is presently vacant and is possibly slated for demolition. The possibility exists that this was originally a center chimney house. The present chimneys are not original and photographs of the interior stairhall show a late nineteenth century staircase possibly altered when the present entry porch was added. A detailed examination of the interior structure is necessary to determine the degree and type of interior alterations. All of the house's decorative detailing is concentrated on this entry porch which is centered on the symmetrically fenestrated facade. The porch is supported by paneled Tuscan posts under a denticular cornice and topped by a turned-baluster railing. A small, one-story, gabled rear service ell connects the house to the elongated barn that is sited parallel to the house. The house is sited slightly at an angle to the street with a moderate setback, in a setting that is suggestive of Hanson's nineteenth-century rural agricultural landscape.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The northern portion of West Washington Street (known as Willow Street in the nineteenth century) has a lengthy association with one of Hanson's prominent families and a major type of Hanson's nineteenth century industrial heritage. The Cushing House is located on the southeastern edge of a large agricultural parcel that extends to the northwest and is bisected by Brett's Brook. According to Joseph White the Cushing House was constructed in 1785 by Charles Cushing. Historic maps confirm the house was present by 1830 and owned by Charles Cushing. Later the house was owned by his son Nathaniel Cushing, who retained the property as indicated on the maps of 1856 and 1879. The house is associated with mill privilege that was located on the upper reaches of Poor Meadow Brook (now Brett's Brook) to the west of the house. This same stream was dammed in the nineteenth century to create the 19-acre Cushing Pond (no longer extant). The mills there are un-labelled in 1830 and 1856 but by 1879 two Cushing establishments are noted there, one of Nathaniel and a Tack Factory of his kinsman and neighbor F.T. Cushing; the latter establishment remained in place until at least 1903. The house remained in the Cushing family until at least the 1930s. At that time Sallie B. Cushing had owned the house for over thirty years. The house and its setting represents one of the few remaining nineteenth century rural landscapes in Hanson.

REFERENCES

- Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
- Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856
- Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879
- Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903
- White, Houses of Hanson

✓ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. See NR Criteria Statement form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

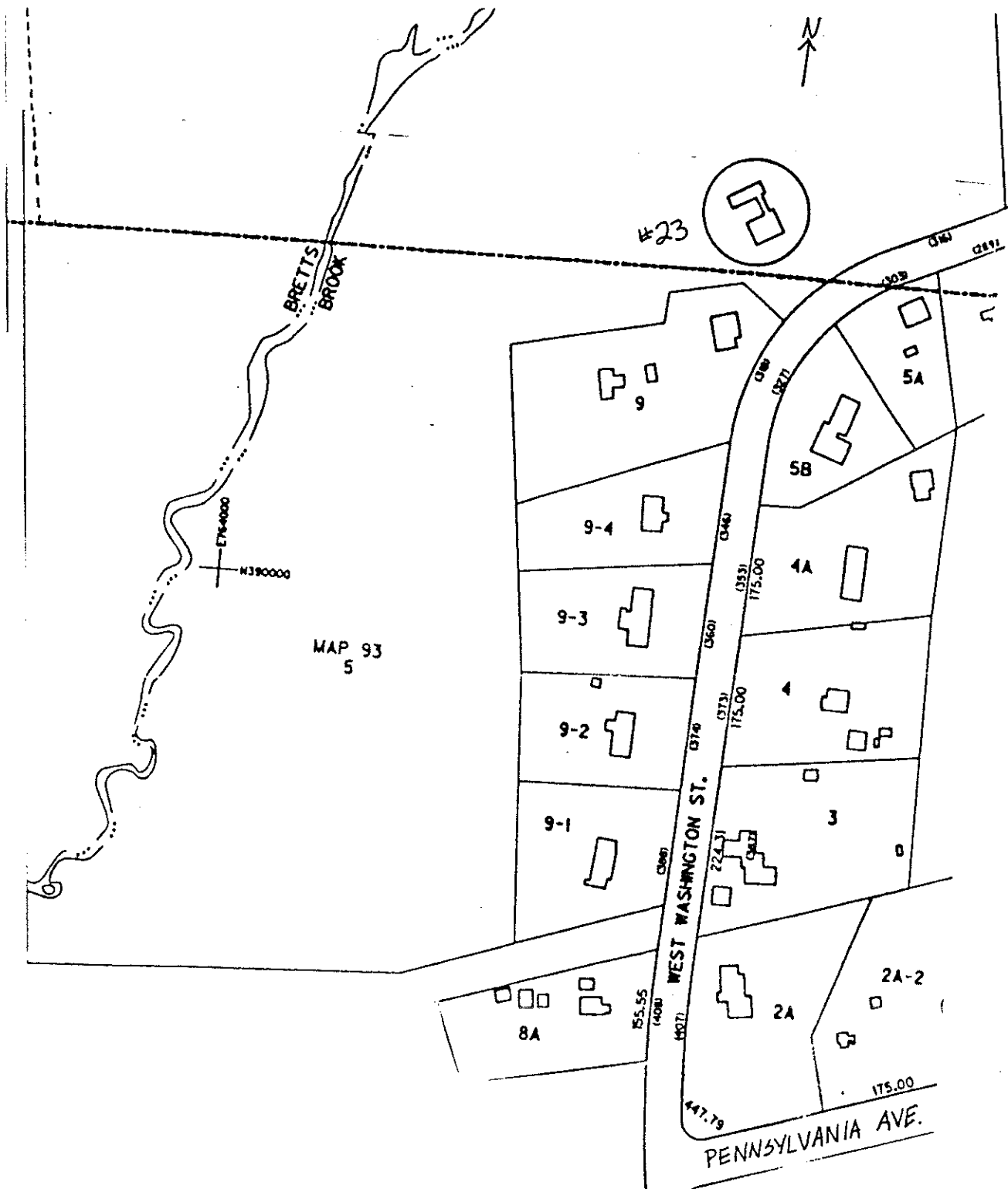
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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**.

This property is significant as a well-preserved example of early building patterns in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. Among the best examples of its type in town, it may be individually eligible but should be evaluated for its role in potential districts when its neighbors can be examined more carefully. The property meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.